

OUR VIEW



Garrison Keillor prepares to record installments of "The Writer's Almanac" in April 29, 2014, in St. Paul.

AP PHOTO

SPEND RETIREMENT WITH US, GARRISON

Radio personality should return to our Lake Wobegon area

TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD

Dearest Garrison Keillor, We heard the other day — on NPR, not from Guy Noir — that you plan to retire from leading "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show at the end of the next season.

Speaking from the edge of the prairie, we humbly (because we're mostly Lutherans!) suggest you consider permanently moving home to your roots upon retirement.

What better place to raise your above-average grandkids than your hometown? Sure, time might have forgotten it, but decades still cannot improve it.

According to The Herald Star, you can buy a house down the street in Lake Wobegon.

Better yet, there's a real nice year-round home on the north shore of the lake. You can see both Lake Wobegon Piles out your front window but it's still barely a 10-minute drive to town and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery. (Please know that Ralph, who doesn't get emotional, permanently offered you the closest parking spot nobody else is using. Wow, he must miss you.)

Perhaps more importantly, though, the lake home is equal distance from Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility Catholic Church and Lake Wobegon Lutheran Church — for when the in-laws come visit.

Because you've been away much of the

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Garrison Keillor, center, serenades dinner guests at Fisher's Club in Avon to celebrate his birthday in 2011.

TIMES PHOTO BY JASON WACHTER

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TIMES FILE PHOTO

Noted storyteller and author Garrison Keillor, center, streaked along the Lake Wobegon Regional Trail between Avon and Albany as he led an entourage of bicyclists for a formal trail opening ceremony in 1998.

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past 40 years, you should know a few things have changed. Don't worry; they are mostly for the better.

For example, Bertha's Kitty Boutique — "for persons who care about cats" — recently expanded to include dogs. The curmudgeons in town blame it on diversity and new marriage laws. Realistically, though, it was a business decision. Just ask Bob's Bank. (Yes, it's still in the green mobile home.)

Of course, if you're like most new retirees, you will want to eat out more than cook at home. The Chatterbox, Cafe Boeuf and Moonlight Bay Supper Club are still here. Plus, Wally and Evelyn still run The Side-track Tap.

Also, you most certainly know that Fisher's Club on Middle Spunk Lake just reopened this month. The new owners seem determined to succeed in keeping it a fairly good place for quite some (more) time.

Not to mention it sits right on the Lake Wobegon Regional Trail you



AP

Garrison Keillor, creator and host of "A Prairie Home Companion," said in an interview with The Associated Press, Monday that he plans to step down after next season and retire such popular sketches as "Guy Noir, Private Eye."

You'll fit right in because this area still boasts strong women, good-looking men and above-average children — and grandchildren.

helped debut back in 1998. Much like a newly married old-school Catholic couple, that trail has grown seemingly by the season. It already connects to other trails, allowing riders to go as far west as Fergus Falls. Local users are pushing hard to bring it all the way to metro St. Cloud.

In fact, local voters even approved taxing the bachelor farmers who come here to shop so

they could use that money to make those connections the next 20 years.

It's that kind of progress we believe you will find attractive in your retirement. Plus, you'll fit right in because this area still boasts strong women, good-looking men and above-average children — and grandchildren.

Hope to see you around town in 2016 and beyond.